



Feb. 17, 2012

This Week:

- Legislative update
- Chetzemoka incident
- Life Ring Awards presentation
- Seattle Terminal Project public meeting
- Mukilteo Terminal Project tribal meeting and public hearings
- Construction begins on 144-car ferry
- Anacortes terminal passenger waiting area improvements
- Chilly Hilly bicycle event Sunday, Feb. 26, on Bainbridge Island
- Regular schedule on Presidents' Day Holiday

Legislative update

The House Transportation Committee yesterday released the [2012 Supplemental Transportation budget](#). The budget will enable the ferry system to continue our current level of service through the end of this biennium on June 30, 2013. The budget does assume certain fee increases including a part of the barrel fee that was proposed by the governor. The budget also begins funding for the second 144-car ferry. However, the budget does not address the financial crisis facing the ferry system beginning in the 2013-2015 biennium. The last opportunity to address that larger issue will be in the 2013 session.

Chetzemoka incident

On Tuesday morning during a departure from Tahlequah, the Chetzemoka had white smoke coming from one of its exhaust stacks. The vessel returned to the dock and the Chief Engineer began troubleshooting. A Port Engineer and a service technician were brought in and worked together with the Chief Engineer to investigate and diagnose the problem. It turned out that due to the characteristics of the Point Defiance/Tahlequah route (short crossing time and low engine power requirements) there has been oil building up in the exhaust system, and on Tuesday it got hot enough to burn off, resulting in the white smoke coming from the stack. After successful sea trials, the Coast Guard approved the Chetzemoka to return to service. We are working on a plan to avoid this type of situation in the future.

Life Ring Awards presentation

On Wednesday I attended an event to honor a number of our fleet employees who received the WSF Life Ring Award. These folks attended to individuals who experienced medical emergencies while on board our vessels or at our terminals, and heroically performed the life-saving procedures all of our fleet employees have been trained to perform and practice on a regular basis. I share the sentiment our Director of Operations expressed, that I am proud to work with such dedicated, professional, and highly skilled individuals. I congratulate the award recipients and express my admiration of our fleet employees who are out on the front lines every day prepared to respond to any emergency that may arise.

Seattle Terminal Project public meeting

About 45 people joined our team last night to learn about our important safety project at Colman Dock and provide their comments. At the meeting we shared materials about our plan for Colman Dock which focuses on addressing concerns about the safety of the facility. Today's facility is old, deteriorating and vulnerable to earthquakes. As the first step in the environmental review phase we are seeking comments through March 15, 2012. To view the materials from the meeting or provide your comments please visit the [project website](#).

Mukilteo Terminal Project tribal meeting and public hearings

Last month WSF and the Federal Transit Administration released the Mukilteo Multimodal Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which describes proposed project alternatives and identifies potential environmental effects. Next week I'm meeting with tribal leaders about the DEIS, and we'll be holding public hearings on the project so you can learn more and submit your comments: 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22, at the Rosehill Community Center in Mukilteo; and 5-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, at the Clinton Community Hall. You can download the DEIS on the [project website](#), and view a [YouTube video](#) about the proposed project alternatives.

Construction begins on 144-car ferry

Yesterday Vigor Shipyards began welding steel together for the first hull module of the first new 144-car ferry. This is an important milestone in continuing to build modern vessels to provide our passengers safe and reliable service. We look forward to the partnership with Vigor to bring this boat in on time and on budget. Construction is scheduled for completion in early 2014.

Anacortes terminal passenger waiting area improvements

The passenger waiting area in our Anacortes terminal building is going to be receiving some much-needed improvements in the next few weeks. First, the walls will get a fresh coat of paint, then new carpeting will be installed, and finally, new benches will be added. Please pardon the disarray while we make these changes. We hope these renovations will make this space more comfortable and pleasant for customers waiting to head out to the San Juan Islands.

Chilly Hilly bicycle event Sunday, Feb. 26, on Bainbridge Island

On Sunday, Feb. 26, the 40th annual Chilly Hilly bicycle event will be held on Bainbridge Island. Customers should expect delays Sunday morning, Feb. 26, from Seattle to Bainbridge, as hundreds of bicyclists are expected to ride the ferries to the event. Limited vehicle traffic will be loaded on the Seattle departures at 7:55 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 9:35 a.m. and 10:35 a.m. Participating bicyclists will access the terminal for staging via the Marion Street gate. All off-loading vehicles from Bainbridge will exit south onto Alaskan Way. [See photos from previous years.](#)

Regular schedule on Presidents' Day Holiday

Just a note that all our routes will be operating on their normal weekday schedules on Presidents' Day (Monday, Feb. 20).

Next Week:

- Mukilteo Multimodal Terminal DEIS tribal meeting and public hearings
- Skagit County Council of Governments

David Moseley's weekly updates are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.

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